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Statement of the Supreme Commander HISHIO

(Oct. 1, 1939, Nanking)

In accordance with our fundamental policy towards the China Incident announced last December, the Japanese Empire has been resolutely proceeding to establish a new order based on morality in East Asia, simultaneously with her consistent effort to completely crush the anti-Japanese regime. Recently, there has been organized the General Headquarters of the Expeditionary Forces in China, in order to cope with the present situation and to bring about the complete settlement of the China Incident. In view of the mission imposed upon us, the Army will do its utmost to attain the desired end following the consistent policy with the Japanese nationals in China under its command. For this purpose, we are determined to stamp out the remaining anti-Japanese elements to the last. Nevertheless, we will protect the innocent people; we will endeavour to restore war devastation; we will positively co-operate in constructing new China hand in hand with intelligent sympathizers. Rights and interests of the third countries in China shall be protected and respected as much as possible. Sincere efforts shall be made to settle unfortunate incidents that will possibly occur during our military operations.

We hope the third countries will recognize the fact that our Army is engaging in a extensive military operations, and that there are some inevitable requirements as the result thereof. Further, we hope they will not only understand that the actual circumstances during the Incident are not necessarily binding on them in the future, but will co-operate and participate in the effort to attain our end. If there are those who dare to act for the benefit of the enemy or to disturb our military operations during the Incident, the Army will never hesitate to take decisive measures against them. We hope that, at this time when the sentiment for peace and against communism runs high and the desire of the people for the construction of new China pervades through the country, every man in every field, both native and foreigner, will render hearty co-operation to the army, for the purpose of realizing the lofty ideal of establishment of a new order, in East Asia. fully recognizing that the purpose of the despatch of Imperial Army is solely for the eternal peace in East Asia and that the existence of the Imperial Army in the Continent is based on morality. I hereby proclaim our undhakable policy and determination.

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對しては誠意を以てこれが解決に當るべし。第三回においても、特に軍が全力を擧げて噴汎なる作戰を遂行中の事實と、これに伴ふ必然の要請を認識し、事態下の現事態にして必ずしも將來を拘束せんとするものゝあらざることを諒解し、進んで我が目的の貫徹に協力参加し來らんことを希望するものなり。なほ事態下に利敵行爲を敢てし、或は我が作戰行動を妨害するものあらば軍はこれに對し、斷乎たる處置を講ずることには躊躇せざるべし。今や全市に亘り和平反共の空氣澎湃として起り、更生新支那建設の氣運愈高まるの秋、廣く内外各界の人士は須らく帝國主義の目的が實に實現永遠の平和を求むるにあり、又大陸における皇軍の存在が實に道義に立脚するものなることを確認し、支那新秩序建設の大理想實現のため、軍に對し戮力協心の實を擧げんことを望む。茲に不動の方針と決意とを表明す。

Doc # 934

同生共死より拔萃

時局參考資料第二十五號

西尾 總司令官 聲明

昭和十四年十月一日
於 南 京

帝國は舊聲明せる事實處理根本方針に基き、終始一貫抗日政權の徹底的潰滅を計る。其に、道義を基調とする東亞新秩序の建設に向ひ邁進し來りしが、更に時局に即應し支那事實處理の完璧を期するため今同時に支那派遣軍總司令部を編成せられたり。是はその使命に鑑み、在支諸君を増進し一貫せる方針の下に一意所期の目的を達成せん。これがため抗日義勇勢力は徹底的にこれが潰滅を期す。然れども、我々の民を慈しみ戦禍の恢復を圖り、廣く同憂具眼の士々ともに積極的に提揚し、以て新支那の建設に協力すべし。在支第三回總会に對しては終めてこれを保證愈重すべく、作戰行動中偶發すべき不幸なる事態に